

In Memoriam



Renee Stephan

March 25, 1929 - August 1, 2014

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*On August 1, 2014 we were extremely saddened to hear about the loss of Renee Stephan. She was a long- time friend and dancer, truly a beautiful person inside and out. I have received a lot of expressions of sympathy from our Chapter. Everyone had so many kind things to say about Renee. She was a person that gave unreservedly from her heart and warmed a room with her presence.*



*I would like to share with you thoughts from Ruth Wilbourne Gandel, a long-time friend of Renee's:*

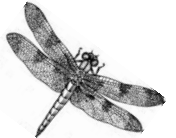
*"Renee and I met in 1999 when I joined USA Dance Tri-Cities Chapter 6060. Over the years, we became good friends, talking at least once a week by phone, and on the second Saturday of the month, my husband Bill and I would meet Renee at a restaurant for a get-together prior to going to our chapter dance.*





*If I were later calling her than usual, she would call me and say, “haven’t heard from you, and wondered if something was wrong”. That was Renee, always concerned for others.*

*She loved ballroom dancing and talked about it to everyone she met, encouraging them to attend out chapter dances, and if they had a good time, encouraged them to join. Many became members after talking with Renee.*



*She served on the Chapter’s Board of Directors for eight years, and served at the admissions table, greeting everyone with a warm welcome.*

*When our chapter dances were held at a studio, she would volunteer to come on the day after Thanksgiving and help decorate for the holidays. She would say, “I can’t do much, but I’ll do what I can”. Always a volunteer and willing to help that was Renee.*

*Renee loved volunteering at the Thomas Johns Cancer Hospital, greeting patients, family members and interacting with the staff. She also spent many hours swimming at the YMCA pool, early in the morning too, because she would be able to swim before a lot of people came. She loved her “volunteer and Y families”.*



*Late last Fall she and I were talking about decorating and she asked me what colors were in our house, I told her, and lo and behold, a few weeks later, she presented Bill and I with a wedding present of a beautiful afghan she had crocheted. The colors matched our décor perfectly.*



*When Bill and I were at The Homestead last fall, I saw some chairs in the Great Hall were upholstered in fabric that had dragonflies in the pattern. Knowing how much Renee liked dragonflies, I took a picture of one of the chairs and emailed it to her. She just thought that was wonderfu*

*Renee now dances in heaven. I already miss our weekly chats and her friendly smile”.*



*I had the good fortune of knowing Renee through both her volunteer work at The Thomas Johns Cancer Center, and through dance. We met in 1998 when she first began dancing. The first time I saw her in the hospital, we were both surprised to see each other, and there were big hugs. Our friendship was special because we shared two passions in our lives – dancing and the care of those in the hospital. If I hadn't seen her at work for a while, she would say, "Ginny – I haven't seen you in a while. I hope everything is OK with the kids and your mother!" As mentioned so many times at her Memorial Service, Renee was a caring, compassionate woman.*

*You know that description of someone who would give you the shirt off their back? It shouldn't surprise you that Renee was one of those people. When one of my daughters was in high school, she needed a special camera for a photography course. We shopped all over and couldn't find the one she wanted. I was talking to Renee about our unsuccessful afternoon at a dance and she said, "I have one of those cameras and I'd be happy to give it to her! It's just sitting in the closet." Well, it took some haggling to convince her I would PAY her for the camera, but I did succeed eventually. I asked my daughter, now 33, if she still has the camera, and she assured me it is one she will always keep.*



As many of you know, Renee was an early riser. We roomed together one year at the Tidewater Chapter New Year's weekend event in Norfolk. Since we partied some after the dance, bedtime was 2am and I was looking forward to sleeping in the next morning. Around 6am I heard Renee stirring around and I growled something like, "Renee, why are you up so early? We can sleep late!" Her response- "I did sleep late. I usually get up at 4am." I dove under the covers and awoke a couple hours later to find Renee standing there with 2 cups of hot coffee and a muffin. All was forgiven.



As recently as last December, Renee's compassion was evident when she was admitted to the same facility where my 98 year old mother resides, for rehabilitation/physical therapy. Renee kept an eye on Mom and reported to me every day when I came to visit. She even sent a message to me on New Year's Eve, through Ruth Wilbourne, to say that Mom was doing fine.

I'll miss that smiling face, but I know she's brightening someone else's day where she now lives. Bless you Renee for being a part of my life.



**Release of doves at the Memorial Service for Renee on August 9, 2014**

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Where has the summer gone? We have a lot to reflect on for the past couple of months. The USA Dance Tri-Cities Chapter has been busy!

We had a great turnout for our August Dance so come and join us for some more great Foxtrot moves on September 13, 2014, again with Gwendolyn Glenn.



Everyone enjoyed the music provided by Mike Recant, he did a fabulous job with some great music and brought back our Mixer!

We had the privilege of teaching “Dance and Manners” to the Hopewell Boys and Girls Club in July at Harry E. James Elementary School in Hopewell, VA. We acknowledge that teaching children at this age can help children improve their social and communication skills, learn how to work as part of a team, and develop a greater sense of trust and cooperation. We would like to send our appreciation to Gwendolyn Glenn and Jeff Dewey for teaching this class. We would also like to extend thanks to Ruth Wilbourne, Emma Humrickhouse, and John Brooks for assisting.





## *Hopewell Boys & Girls Club*

### *◀ How to Introduce Yourself*



### *Dance Frame ▶*



### *Let's Dance*



**Certificate of Completion – Hopewell Boys & Girls Club, July 31, 2014**



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**Chapter Dance Schedule:**

|                           |                                                                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>September 13, 2014</b> | <b>Foxtrot lesson, Instructor Gwendolyn Glenn,<br/>music Doug McRae</b> |
| <b>October 11, 2014</b>   | <b>Salsa Lesson, Instructor Steve Kirvan, music Randy Goodfellow</b>    |
| <b>November 8, 2014</b>   | <b>Salsa Lesson, Instructor Steve Kirvan, music Edith Lanning</b>       |
| <b>December 13, 2014</b>  | <b>Holiday Dance – NO lesson; music Doug McRae</b>                      |

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>SAVE THE DATE; March 14, 2015</b> | <b>Dance at the Lee Club, Fort Lee</b> |
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The Tri-Cities Chapter is supporting the September 27th "Let's Go to the Hop" dance sponsored by the Prince George County Parks and Recreation Department. The proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. See flyer on this website.

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If you are looking for somewhere to dance on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, “The Good Tymes Band’ plays at the American Legion on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday. Several members of Tri Cities Chapter and I went to a dance at the American Legion on 1401 Hilliard Road in Richmond last month. The venue, the people, and the music pleasantly surprised us. The Good Tymes Band, headed by fellow ballroom dancer Jeff Dewey, provided an evening of very danceable popular songs.

Everyone had a great time and we will be going back in the future. The band is scheduled there the 4th Saturday of each month. Dances are open to the public. \$8.00 per person at the door. 7:30 to 10:30. Proceeds benefit The American Legion, which in turn supports our veterans. It’s a great dance opportunity and I hope more of you will join us in the future.

**Dancing Feet are Happy Feet!!**

**Have a Safe Labor Day Holiday**

